

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 Internat Application No
 PCT/GB 03/02693

 A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 B65G53/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B65G B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 1 348 042 A (MITSUI SHIPBUILDING ENG) 13 March 1974 (1974-03-13)	1,2, 10-15, 18-20, 26-28, 30-32, 36
Y	page 1, line 26 - line 43 page 1, line 61 - line 76 page 2, line 21 - line 43 page 2, line 61 - line 82 figures 1-3	21-23
Y	RU 2 111 262 C (KUZ MIN ALEKSANDR LEONIDOVICH; SHATOKHIN IGOR MIKHAYLOVICH) 20 May 1998 (1998-05-20) abstract; figure 1	21-23



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 October 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

21/10/2003

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3 178 233 A (BREDTHAUER RAYMOND O) 13 April 1965 (1965-04-13) column 3, line 52 -column 5, line 19 figures 1-13 -----	1-10, 16-21, 26-28, 30-32, 36
X	US 3 360 301 A (DONAHO JR RUEL M) 26 December 1967 (1967-12-26) column 5, line 26 - line 40 figures 1-13 -----	1, 2, 10, 16-21, 25-28, 30-32, 36

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 1348042	A	13-03-1974	JP	49013186 B	29-03-1974
			DE	2109287 A1	02-03-1972
			FR	2103457 A5	14-04-1972
			NL	7102313 A ,B	28-02-1972
			NO	132630 B	01-09-1975
			SE	384828 B	24-05-1976
RU 2111262	C	20-05-1998	RU	2111262 C1	20-05-1998
US 3178233	A	13-04-1965	GB	1032537 A	08-06-1966
US 3360301	A	26-12-1967	NONE		

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 37
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 37

Claim 37 relates to a lack of clarity within the meaning of Article 6.2 (a) PCT arising to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claim impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear (and/or concise), namely 1-36.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.